

# Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

May 28, 2009

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Stillaguamish**  
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**Surface Water Management  
Staff**  
Sean Edwards  
Jake Jacobson

Snohomish County Public Works,  
Surface Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue,  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3464  
www.surfacewater.info

Owen Carter, Acting Director

Snohomish County Public Works, Service Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607  
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Mr. Carter:

The Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board would like to provide the following recommendations to Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) for the 2010 budget. We recognize that some recommendations may take more time to fully prepare and multiple years to implement and we therefore encourage SWM to view these recommendations as both short and long-term suggestions and directions for future planning and budget preparations. Items listed below are roughly in order of priority to the CWD Board in the areas of Shellfish Protection, Discretionary Fund, Contract with Snohomish Conservation District, Advisory Board Authorization, Rates and Membership, and Other Recommendations for SWM that advance the goals of the CWD. We look forward to further discussions on these items as they progress from recommendations to actions that protect and enhance water resources in the Stillaguamish Clean Water District.

### Shellfish Protection

- We support Snohomish County's effort, led by SWM and supported by partners including the Snohomish Conservation District, the Tribes, and the State, to develop a Stillaguamish Shellfish Restoration Plan that will strategically direct, help and document focus actions to ensure that RCW 90.72 revenues collected in the CWD protect and improve water quality over shellfish tidelands in the CWD. Snohomish County actions using RCW 90.72 revenues should be used to implement (supplement) priority actions identified in the Stillaguamish Shellfish Restoration Plan and not be used to fund other efforts which have little or no effect on water quality over shellfish tidelands.

### Clean Water District Area Annexations

- Support efforts to establish inter-local agreements between municipalities and the County to improve the transition process from county to city management of storm water, drainage, water quality, and other water resources and infrastructure that benefit the community and the Stillaguamish River watershed as a result of annexation that causes a diversion of revenues from SWM to gaining municipalities.

### Clean Water District Advisory Board

- The Board desires to strengthen our advisory and advocacy roles by cultivating public awareness, encouraging community involvement, and fostering watershed stewardship. This includes full participation on the Board. At the present time, there are several unfilled Board membership positions which create a hardship on our ability to ensure a quorum and to fulfill our mission. We recommend that SWM re-evaluate and implement effective approaches for advertising the mission of the Board, recruiting volunteer advisors, and engaging the public.
- Invite Snohomish Health District to a Board meeting to investigate opportunities to establish/renew a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship. This could include: representation on the Board; some use of the Discretionary Fund for practical on the ground SHD projects; and any number of ways to meet our common objectives.

### Discretionary Fund

- Beyond community involvement on the Board, the Advisory Board recommends that SWM re-evaluate the approach to advertising and/or developing effective on the ground watershed stewardship projects in partnership with local landowners appropriate for the use of Discretionary Fund. The Board sees the Discretionary Fund as a critical way to cultivate public awareness about water quality issues in the CWD and encourage watershed stewardship.

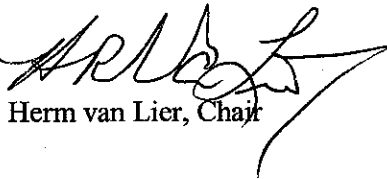
### Other Recommendations to Advance CWD Goals

- Advocate on behalf of the Board to the Snohomish County Council for stronger regulations which compel private landowners within the Stillaguamish Basin to implement measures protective of water quality.
- Initiate discussions with the Snohomish County Parks Director and Department to eliminate water pollution associated with the recreational use of the While Horse Trail adjacent to the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River by people, horses and dogs.
- Although, the overtopping of the City of Stanwood sewage lagoon and its discharge into the Stillaguamish River during flood events is an NPDES permit issue between Ecology and the City, SWM's planning, drainage and rivers work groups should offer support to the City and State to the maximum extent feasible. This could include evaluation of data in the flood management plan, focused drainage inventory, development of decision support tools to integrate flood and wastewater decision making, water quality monitoring, and other assistance.

Due to a turbulent year within the SWM, it is understood that work initiated on the refinement of the work program, rate analysis, future work planning and budget have been delayed. We would like to request that SWM provide periodic reports and updates through the budget process.

Thank you for your interest in the Board's recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,



Herm van Lier, Chair



Maria Calvi, Vice Chair